

SAMPLE CONSTITUTION

Article I: Name and Purpose

Section 1: Name

State the name of the club - you may abbreviate the name after this section if you identify that abbreviation here.

Section 2: Purpose/Mission

State the purpose/mission of your organization – the reasons why you exist. This can be in a list format, or in a paragraph.

Section 3: Affiliation:

If your organization is affiliated with any regional/national organizations, please state those affiliations here.

Article II: Membership

Section 1: Eligibility for Membership

Recognized clubs must be open to any currently enrolled credit student of SUNY Sullivan.

Section 2: Voting Member Criteria

State how a student becomes a voting member [e.g., attends a certain % of meetings/events, pays dues, etc] and if there are any criteria for any other membership categories. This is an important issue for your organization – you want to make sure that students listed on your voting member list are active, interested students in your group.

Section 3: Removal of Members

State the process to remove any member who is not in good standing with the club. Due process must be followed. Things to consider are: reasonable notice to the person being considered for removal, opportunity to defend their position, quorum needed to vote, timeline for the process, appeal process. While you will hopefully not need this section, it is very important that you have a process in place. When you need it, this will clarify the procedure and take out some of the difficult personal issues.

Article III: Officers

Section 1: Officer Qualifications

Identify what qualifications a student must have to be eligible to be an officer. This may include QPA, length of time in organization, previous experience, etc. All officers must be currently enrolled SUNY Sullivan credit students with a QPA and CQPA of at least 2.0.

Section 2: Elected Officers

List the positions in descending order (e.g., President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary)

Section 3: Duties of Officers

List each officer position and their duties. You can include this information in Section 2 if you prefer. Typical duties include:

President: preside at meetings, call special meetings, primary contact with the institutions, appoint committee chairs, runs the election process.

Vice-President: assume President's duties in his/her absence, schedule meeting/practice rooms/facilities.

Treasurer: keeps all financial records and notifies organization of financial issues, prepares budget/allocation requests.

Secretary: takes and distributes minutes of all club meetings, recorder keeper (current and past members, files minutes, etc).

Section 4: Vacancy in Office

In the event a vacancy should occur (resignation or removal), provisions must be made to fill the vacancy. Officer succession/"chain of command" should be addressed (e.g., in the event that the President leaves office, the Vice President will assume those duties until a special election is held. Then refer readers to the special election section of Article IV.

Section 5: Removal of Officers

Grounds for removal of an officer must be clearly identified. Similar to the removal of members, due process must be followed. (see above) Make sure you note the role of your club advisor.

One example:

A petition to remove the officer in question must be submitted to another officer. This petition must contain the signatures of x% of voting members. When such petition is received, the officer shall call a meeting of the club to determine whether or not the officer should be removed. Grounds for removal are to be presented by the officer in charge at a regular or special club meeting. The officer in question shall be provided an opportunity to present a defense either in person or in writing. A quorum shall be present, and a (50% +1, 2/3, simply majority) vote of the voting members shall decide upon removal. While you will hopefully not need this section, it is very important that you have a process in place. When you need it, this will clarify the procedure and take out some of the difficult personal issues.

Article IV: Elections

Section 1: Nomination Process

State how officer candidates will be nominated (by a current officer/member, self-nomination, etc.) and the timeline associated with the nomination process.

Section 2: Election

Election procedures, quorum present, method of voting (secret ballot, etc.), number of terms a person can serve, and when the elections will be held

Section 3: Special Elections

This section outlines what procedures will take place if an officer leaves/is removed from office. Clearly state the timeline for these procedures (e. g, within "x" weeks of vacancy occurring). You may use the same procedures from Section 2, with a revised timeline.

Article V: Advisor

Section 1: Selection

Indicate how your club will choose an advisor. Note: All clubs are required to have an advisor who is a SUNY Sullivan faculty or staff member.

Section 2: Duties

What do you want your advisor to do?

Article VI: Meetings

Section 1: Regular Meeting/Club Activities

Address how often business meetings will occur, any regular club activities, etc., process to notify members of meetings/activities.

Section 2: Special Meetings

Identify why you would call special meetings, and the process used to call these meetings/notify members, etc. Will these meetings be run any differently than regular meetings?

Section 3: Parliamentary Authority

Will you use Robert's Rules of Order? How will the meetings be run?

Section 4: Quorum*

What % of your membership must be present for official club business to occur?

***A quorum is a certain percentage of voting members required to be present during a vote. It is VERY important to clearly indicate what your quorum will be. You want to make sure that when a vote takes place, you have a representative sample of your voting membership present.**

Article VII: Committees

Section 1: Committee Structure

Include what committees (if any) that your club will have. Include responsibilities of each committee and who is responsible for each committee. Examples include Membership, Programs, Elections, Fundraising, etc.

Section 2: Special/Ad-Hoc Committees

State that special/ad-hoc committees may be formed if needed/

Article VIII: Amendments

Section 1: Ratification

Identify the process to be used regarding proposed constitutional amendments: voting procedures, timeline, etc.

Section 2: Submittal to Student Activities Office

Any changes made to this constitution must be submitted to the Student Activities Office.